SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 287

PANIC IN THE SKY - PART 4 OF 4

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

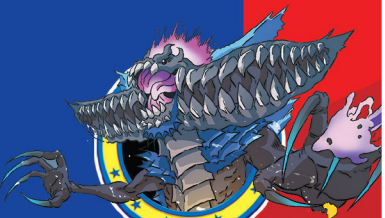
CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SUPER SONIC
CHAOS EMERALD SUPER-CHARGED HERO

CHIP/LIGHT GAIA
WITH THE GAIA COLOSSUS

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
WORLD HEROES



DARK GAIA
WORLD-DESTROYING BEAST OF DARKNESS

THE STORY SO FAR...

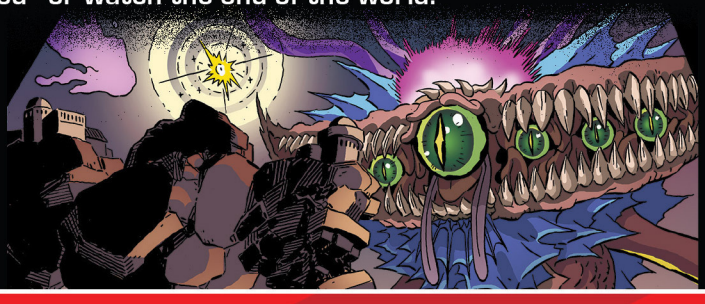
THE LIGHT AND THE DARK

One of Dr. Eggman's mad schemes to take over the world went awry, splitting the planet into pieces and unleashing the long dormant spirits: Light Gaia and Dark Gaia. Light Gaia lost its memories and power, but was soon taken in by Sonic and friends and given the nickname "Chip."

Dark Gaia disintegrated and poured over the shattered world. Monsters made of its essence rose up at night, people were driven to depression and hopelessness, and Sonic became infected, turning into the fearsome Werehog.

Sonic, Chip and the Freedom Fighters sought out the power of the seven Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples, which were foretold to end the crisis. Meanwhile, Dr. Eggman gathered up all of Dark Gaia's energy for his own use. In the end the temples combined into the mighty Gaia Colossus, and the collected dark energy reformed into the terrifying Perfect Dark Gaia.

Now Super Sonic leads Chip, piloting the Gaia Colossus, into battle against Perfect Dark Gaia. Together they must defeat the destructive god—or watch the end of the world.



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PART FOUR: FINALE—AS WAS FORETOLD

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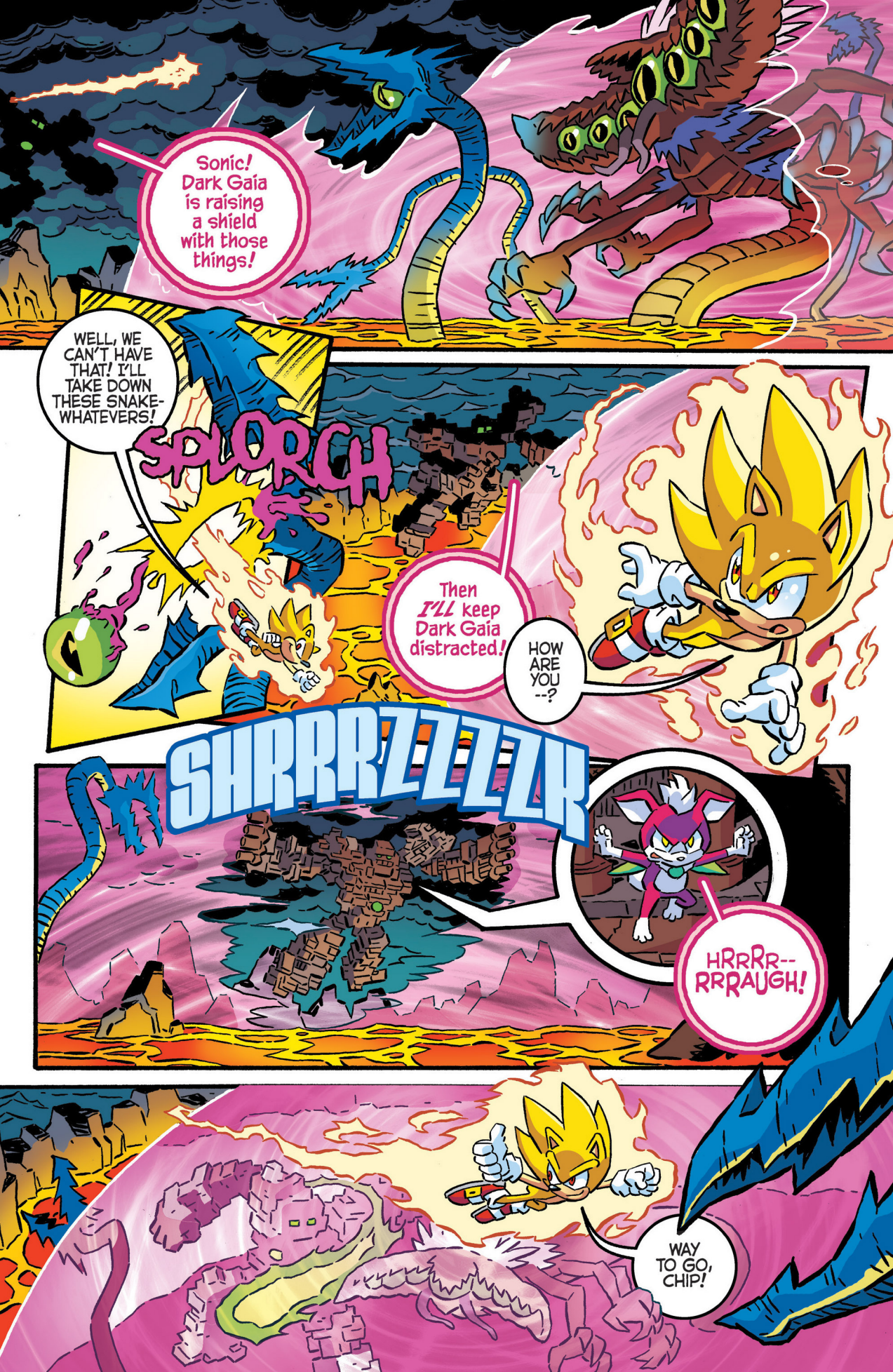
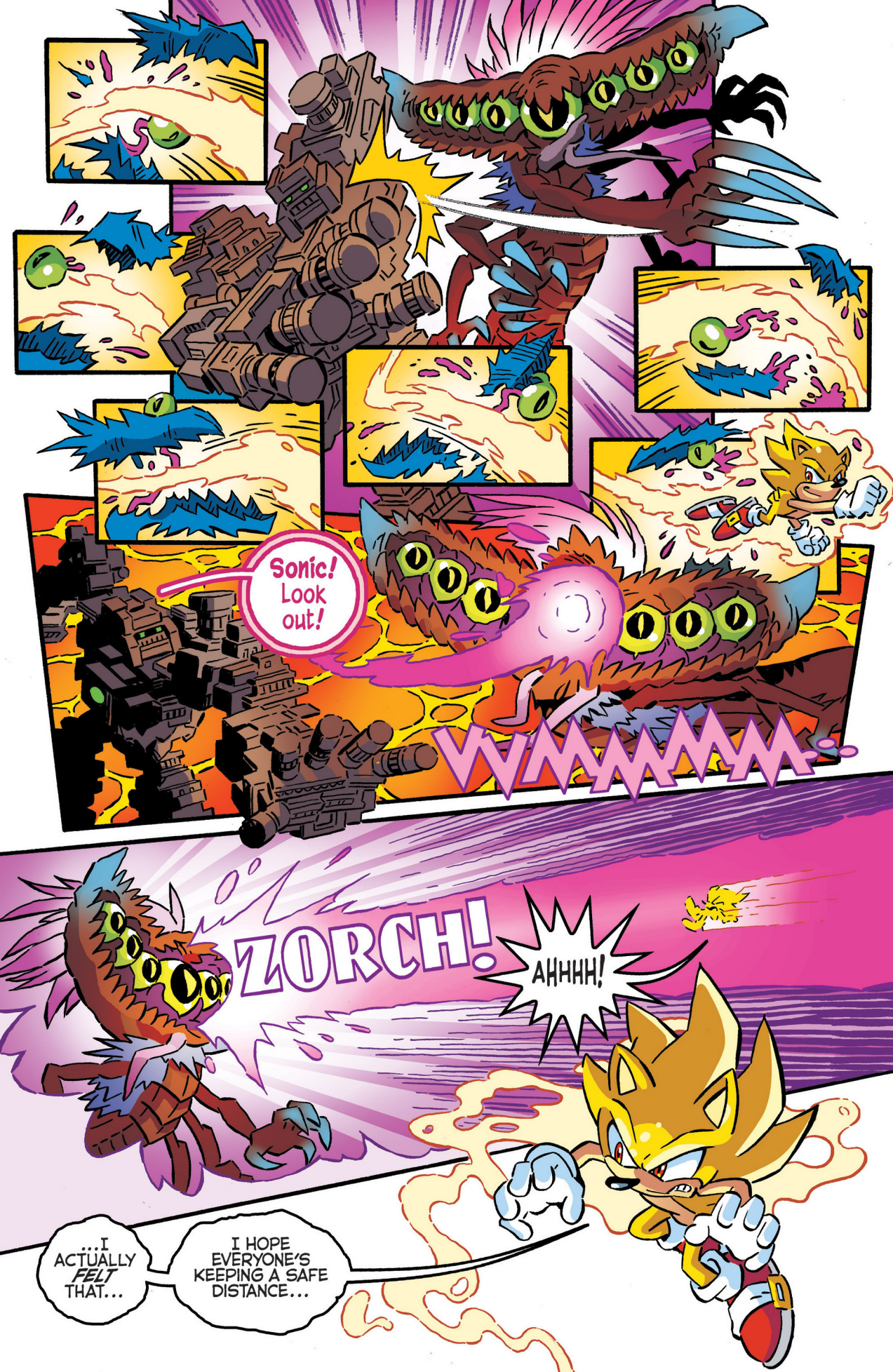
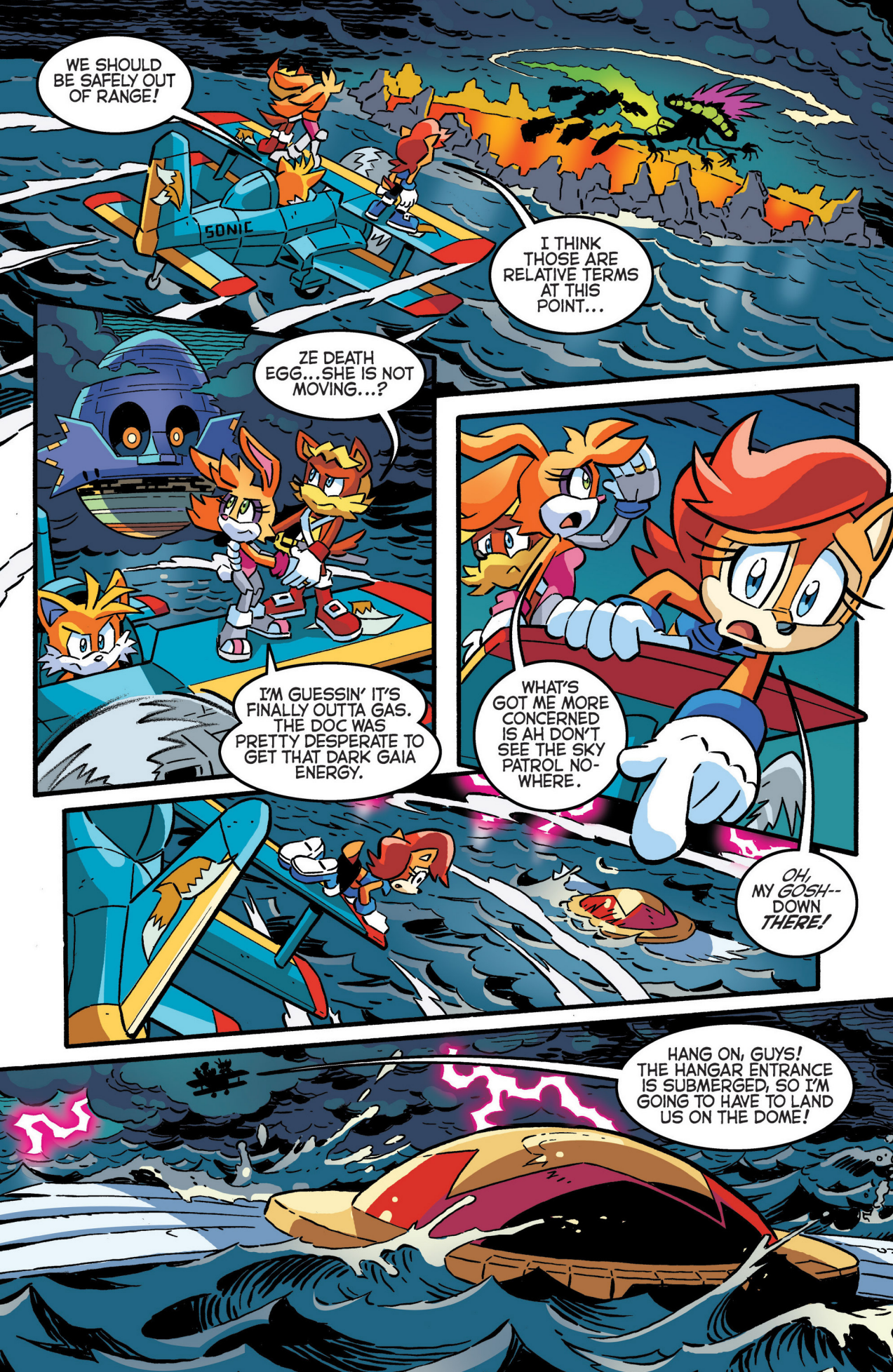

Sonic! Dark Gaia is raising a shield with those things!
WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT! I'LL TAKE DOWN THESE SNAKE-WHATEVERS!
SPLORCH
Then I'LL keep Dark Gaia distracted!
HOW ARE YOU --?
SHRRRZZZZK
HRRRR-- RRRAUGH!
WAY TO GO, CHIP!

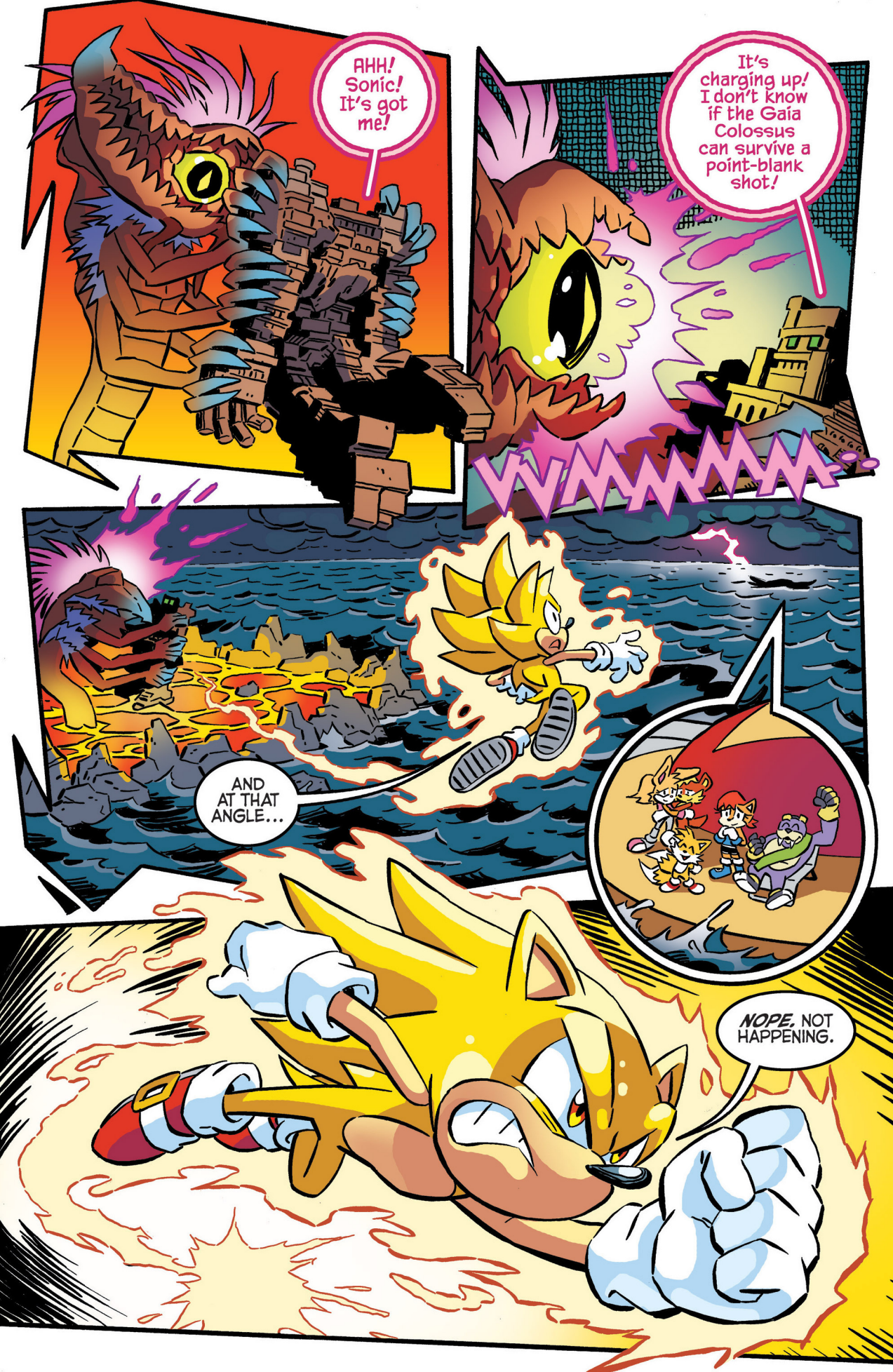

Sonic! Look out!
WMMMMMM
ZORCH!
AHHHH!
...I ACTUALLY FELT THAT...
I HOPE EVERYONE'S KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE...


WE SHOULD BE SAFELY OUT OF RANGE!
SONIC
I THINK THOSE ARE RELATIVE TERMS AT THIS POINT...
ZE DEATH EGG...SHE IS NOT MOVING...?
I'M GUESSIN' IT'S FINALLY OUTTA GAS. THE DOC WAS PRETTY DESPERATE TO GET THAT DARK GAIA ENERGY.
WHAT'S GOT ME MORE CONCERNED IS AH DON'T SEE THE SKY PATROL NO-WHERE.
OH, MY GOSH-- DOWN THERE!
HANG ON, GUYS! THE HANGAR ENTRANCE IS SUBMERGED, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LAND US ON THE DOME!

ROTOR! WHAT--?!
THE DEATH EGG BLEW US OUT OF THE SKY. NICOLE'S AS SAFE AS SHE CAN BE IN THE SERVER, BUT THE SKY PATROL IS DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
SO GRAB A SODA AND LET'S WATCH SONIC SAVE THE WORLD.
WE CAN STILL HELP! I CAN TAKE THE TORNADO AND...
THIS IS A BATTLE OF THE *GODS*, BUDDY. THE TORNADO DOESN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER. LET SONIC AND CHIP DO THEIR THING WITHOUT US GETTING IN THE WAY.
CHAO COLA
AH KNOW THAT LOOK--QUIT BLAMIN' YERSELF, SAL. WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD. YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD.
I KNOW. AND ROTOR'S RIGHT. I JUST WISH WE COULD DO *MORE*...
BE THINKING OF IT THIS WAY, *MA* PRINCESS. DOCTOR EGGMAN JUST LOST MANY OF HIS SUPER-BADNIKS...AND A WHOLE BASE. ZAT HAS TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING, *NON?*
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE IN THE HOME STRETCH, AND WE'VE GOT TWO OF OUR BEST UP THERE. WHAT THEY NEED NOW IS FAITH AND SUPPORT.
GO GET 'EM, GUYS. WE BELIEVE IN YOU!

CRASH!
ROOOOAAR!
SHIK-KOOM!
THAT WAS TOTALLY ONE OF KNUCKLES'S MOVES!
HaHA! well, I don't think I can make this thing Spin Dash!

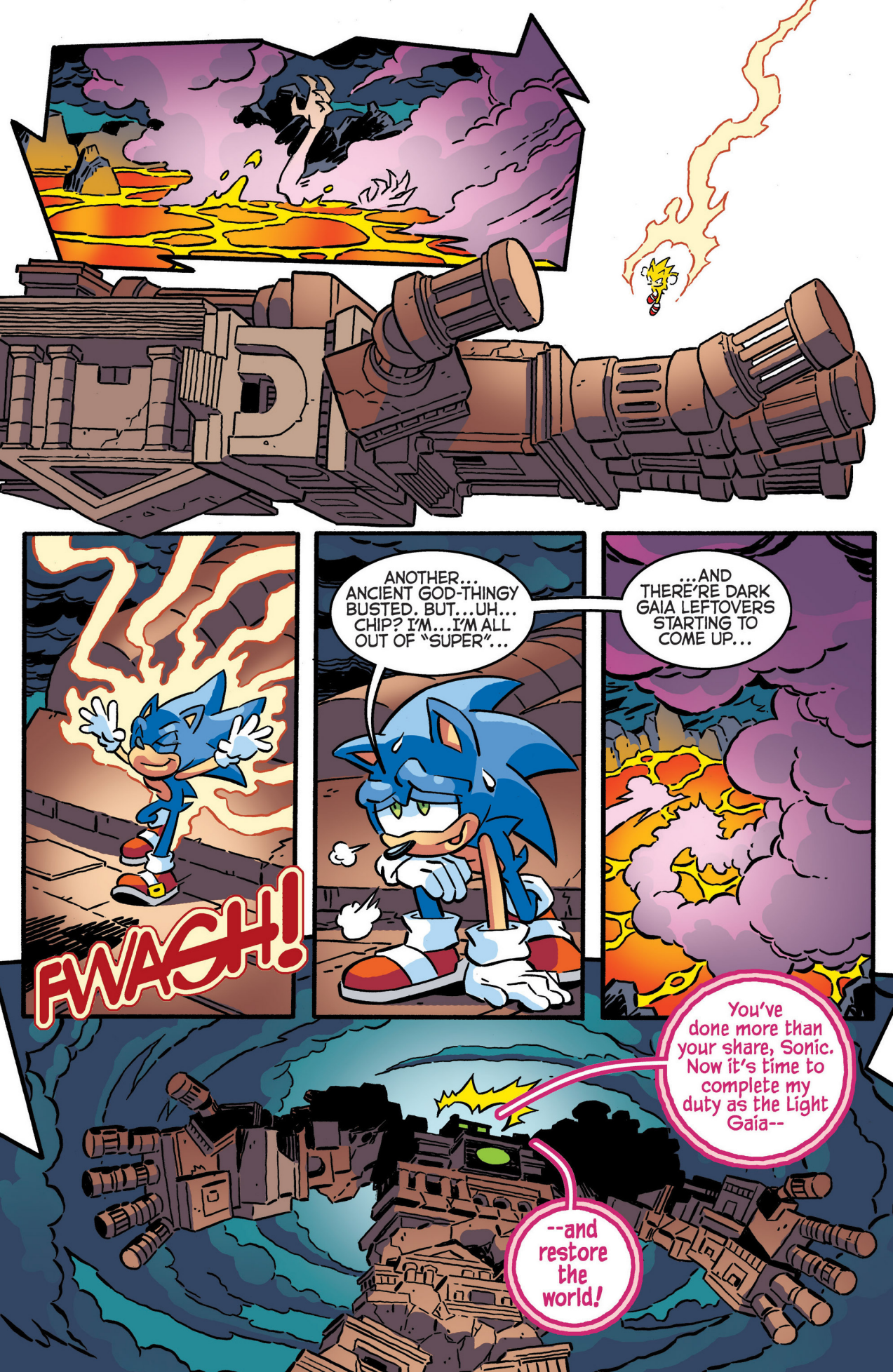
LET'S KEEP IT UP! I'LL KEEP HIM DISTRACTED, YOU PUT HIM DOWN!
Right behind you, Sonic!

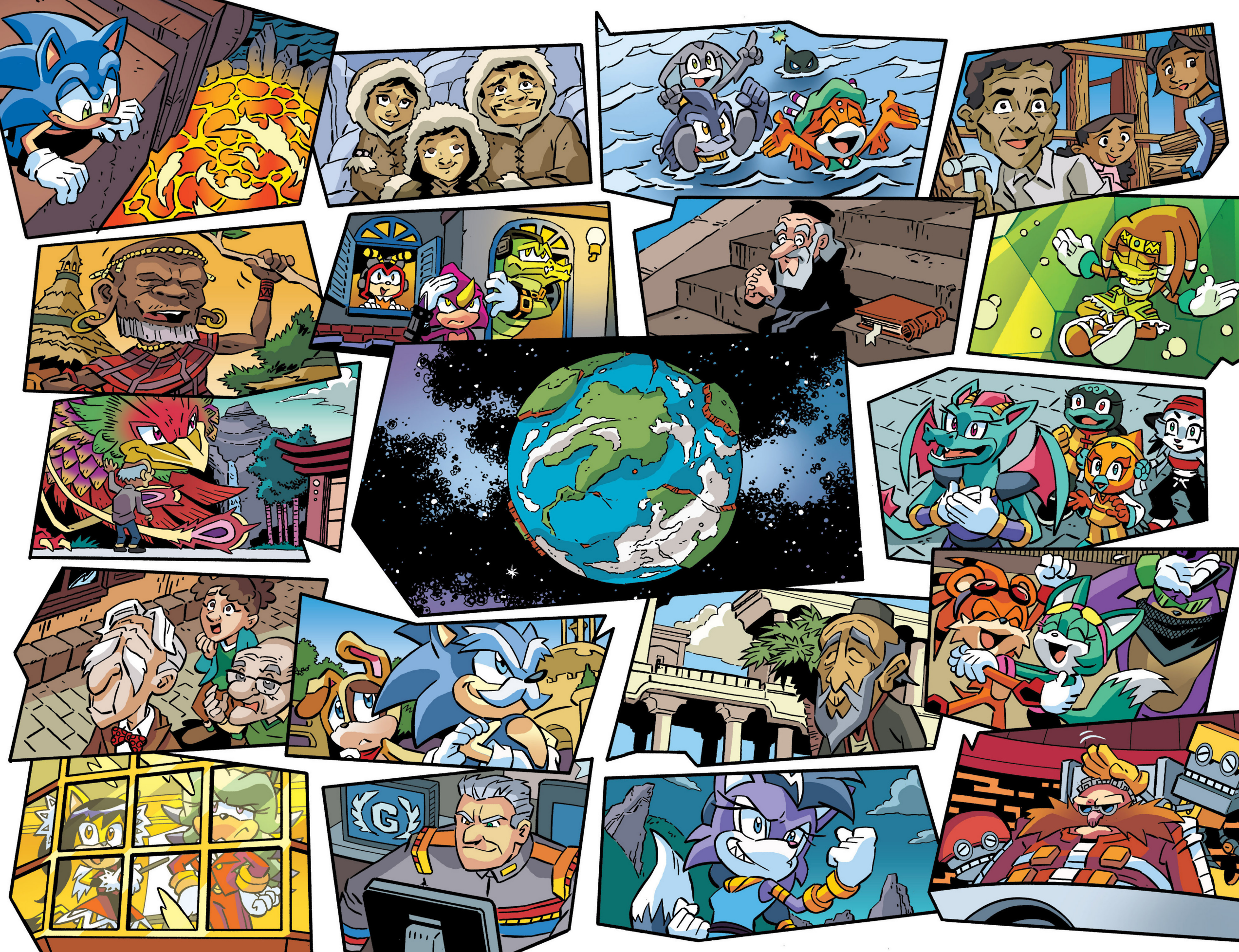

AHH! Sonic! It's got me!
It's charging up! I don't know if the Gaia Colossus can survive a point-blank shot!
VVMMMMMM-
AND AT THAT ANGLE...
NOPE. NOT HAPPENING.

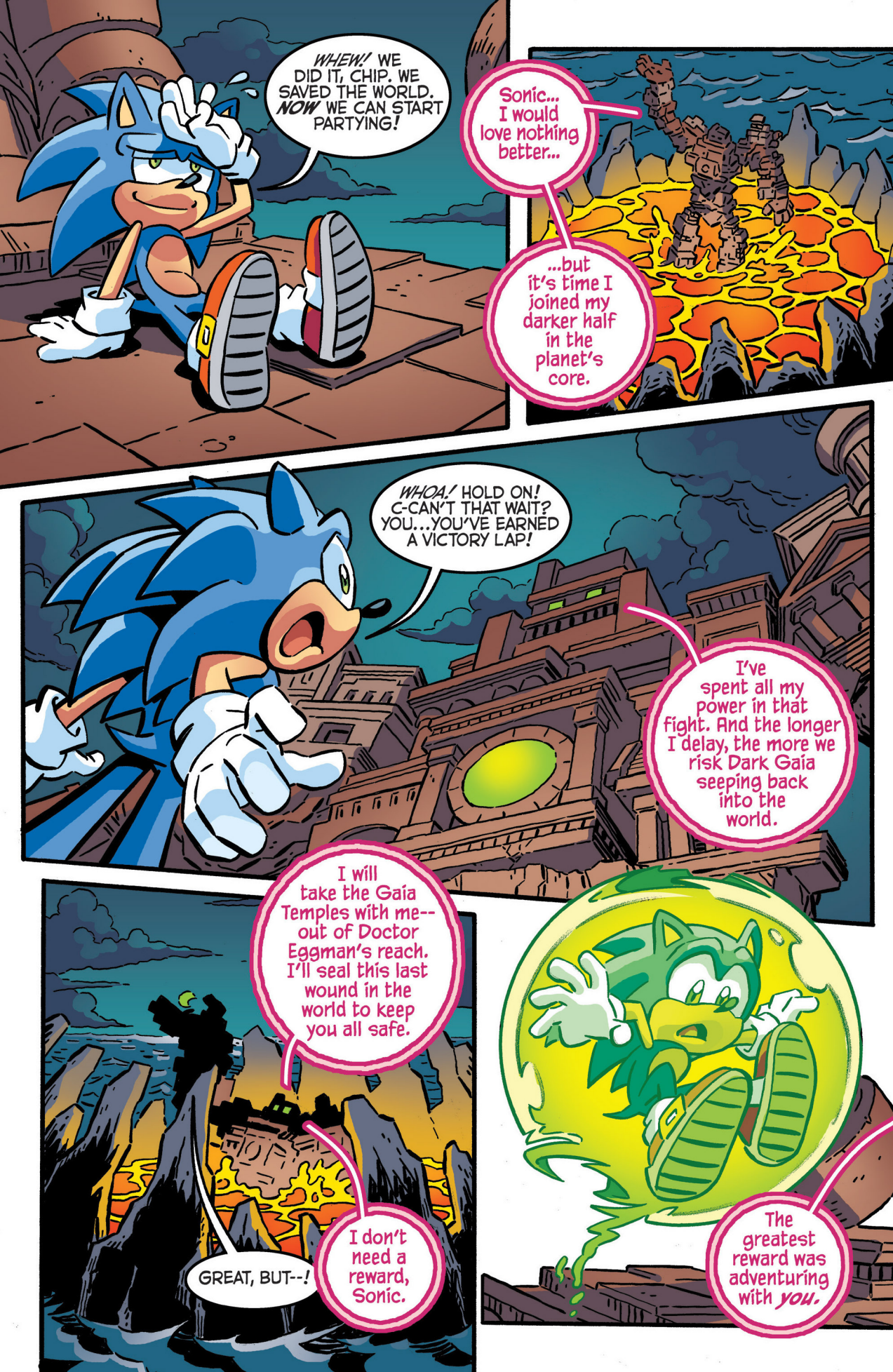
ROOOOAAR!

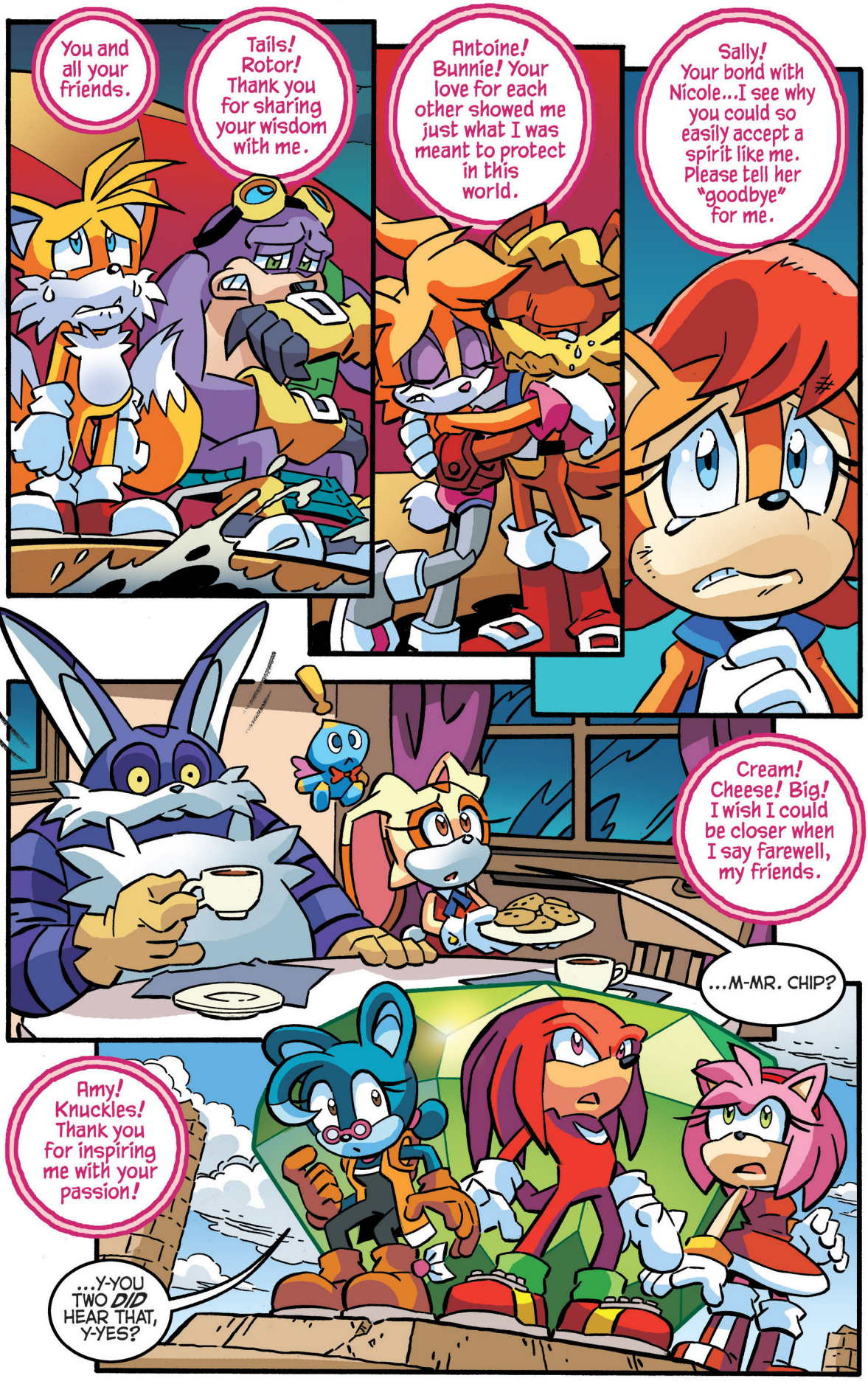
AND ONCE AGAIN, MY ATTEMPTS AT HARNESSING AN ELDRITCH ELEMENTAL POWER FALL THROUGH...
AND AT GREAT PERSONAL COST, NO LESS! NEVER MIND THE RESOURCES...I REALLY **LIKED** THAT AMUSEMENT PARK!
AND I WAS **SO CLOSE** TO FINALLY POWERING THE DEATH EGG! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MY ENEMIES WHEN I RUN OUT OF GAS JUST GETTING INTO RANGE?!
ALTHOUGH...
...THE RAW POWER OF THE WORLD IS MUCH MORE POTENT THAN I IMAGINED. IT COULD WORK JUST AS WELL AS THE DARK GAIA ENERGY.
IF I COULD FIND A WAY TO SIPHON IT...SOME PLACE REMOTE WHERE SONIC WOULDN'T FIND ME AND RUIN MY PLANS **AGAIN**...
BAH! THAT'S PLOTTING FOR ANOTHER DAY.
I NEED TO GET OUT OF THE RANGE OF DARK GAIA--OR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IF THEY MANAGE TO RALLY!

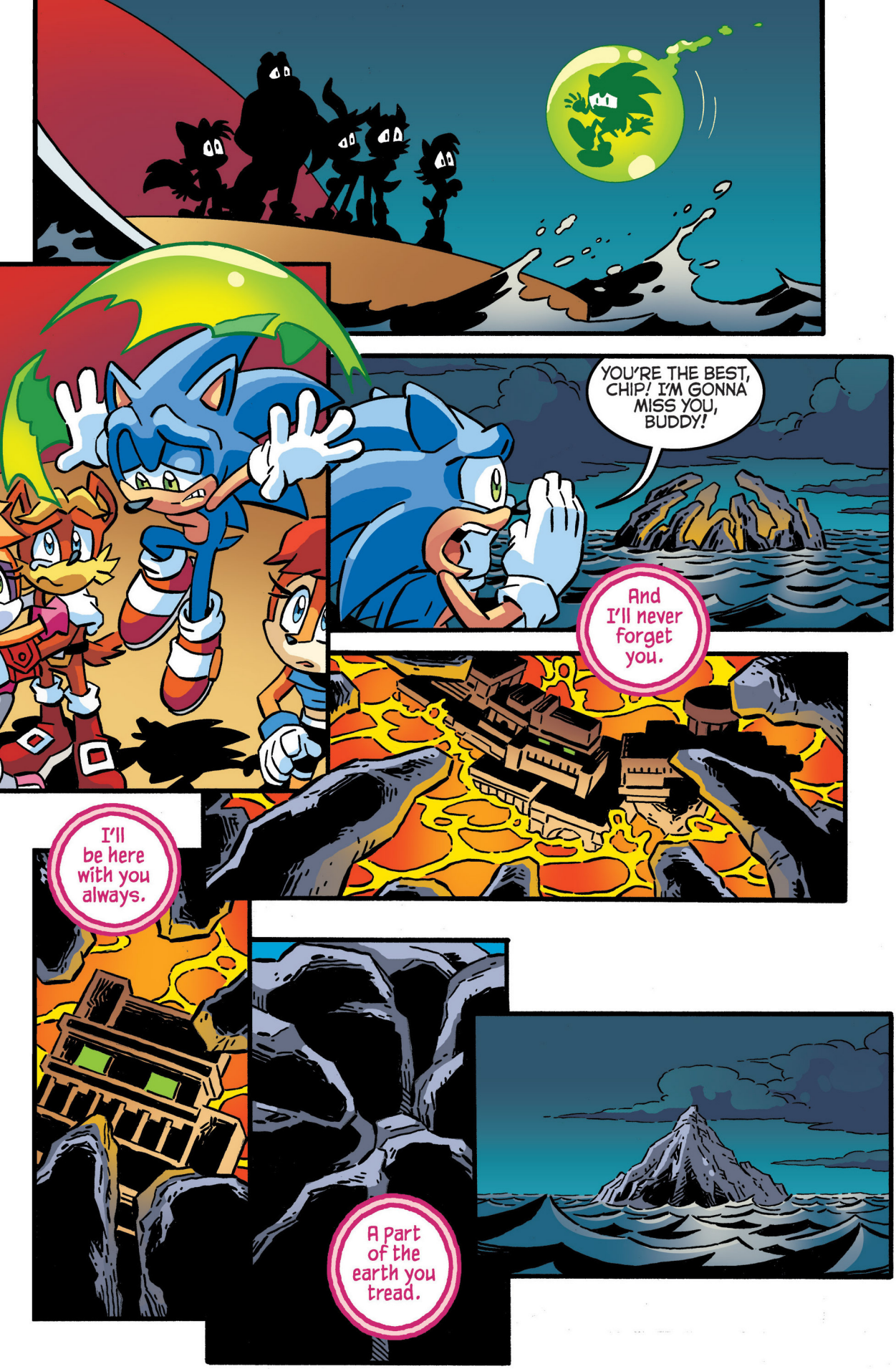
s-
Sonic... that shot... weakened it...
GOTCHA COVERED.
SCHING!

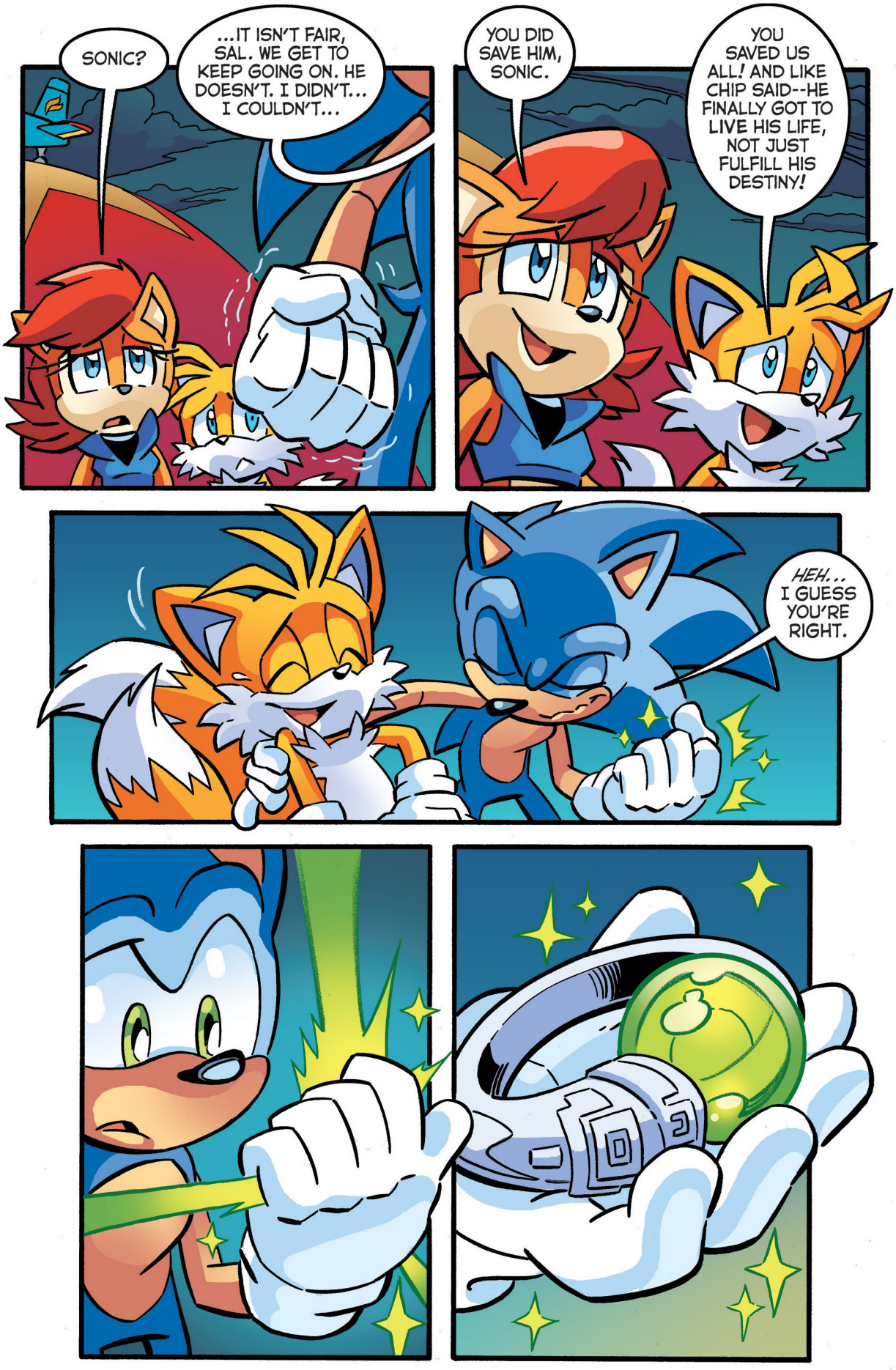

FWASH!
ANOTHER... ANCIENT GOD-THINGY BUSTED. BUT...UH... CHIP? I'M...I'M ALL OUT OF "SUPER"...
...AND THERE'RE DARK GAIA LEFTOVERS STARTING TO COME UP...
You've done more than your share, Sonic. Now it's time to complete my duty as the Light Gaia--
--and restore the world!

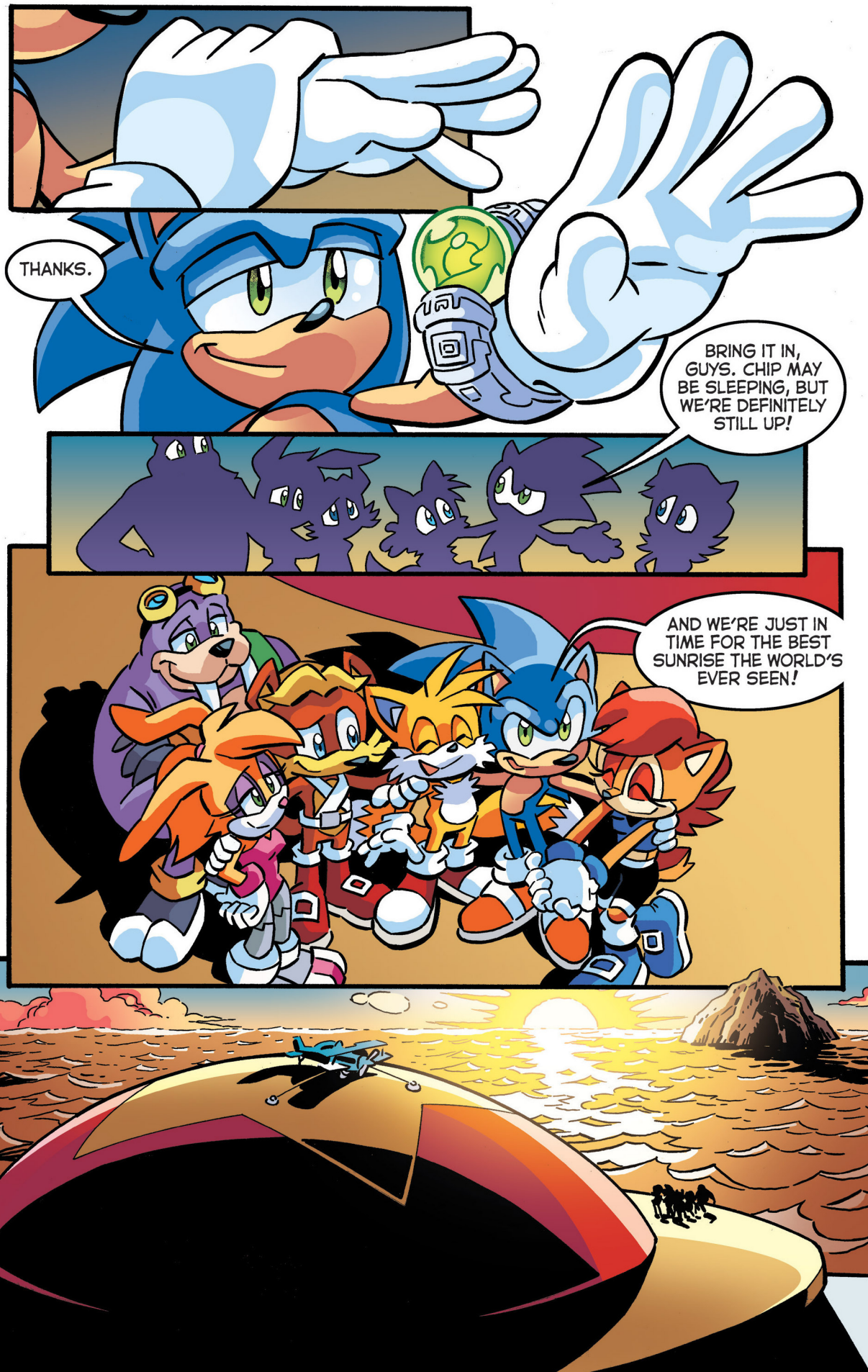


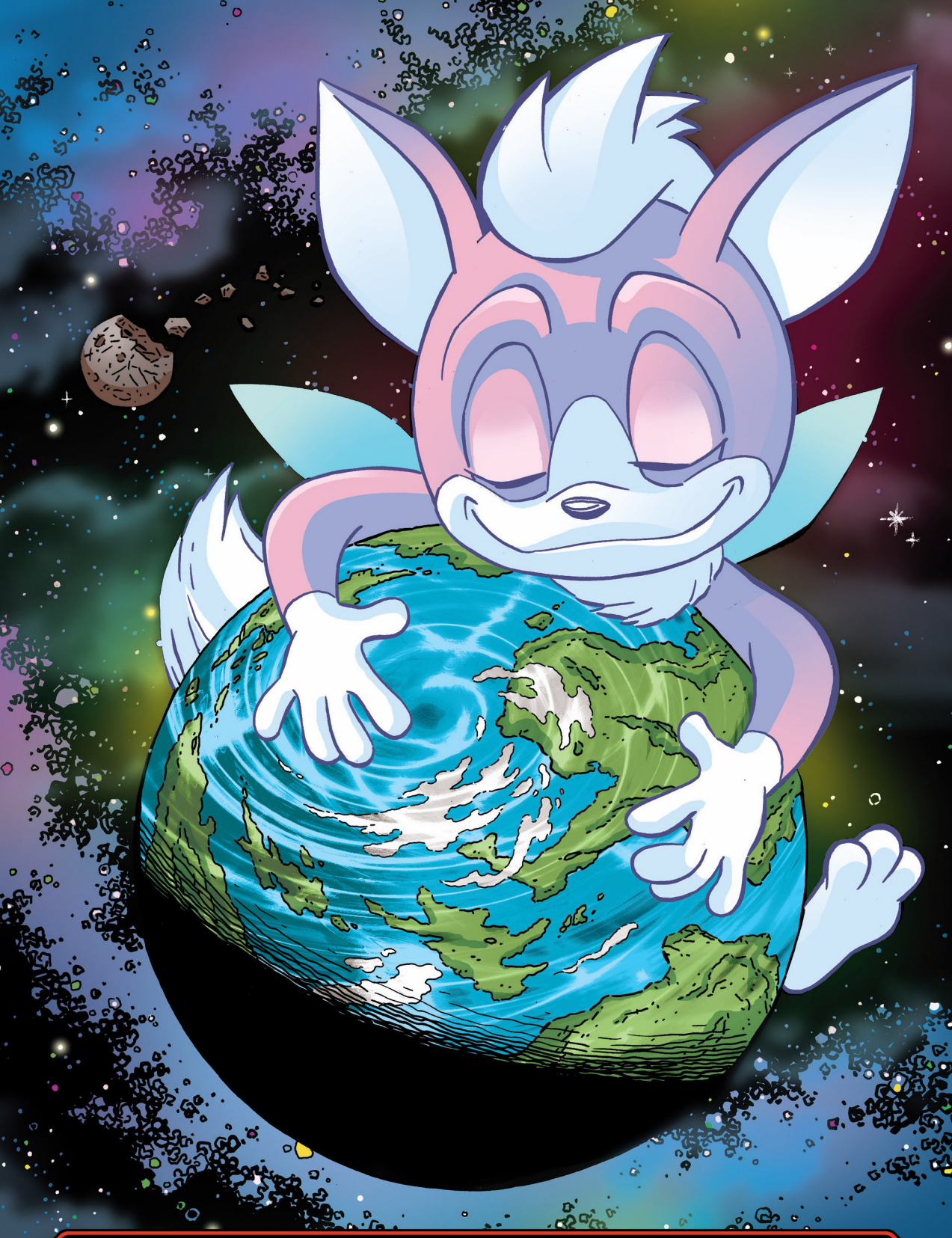

WHEW! WE DID IT, CHIP. WE SAVED THE WORLD. NOW WE CAN START PARTYING!
Sonic... I would love nothing better...
...but it's time I joined my darker half in the planet's core.
WHOA! HOLD ON! C-CAN'T THAT WAIT? YOU...YOU'VE EARNED A VICTORY LAP!
I've spent all my power in that fight. And the longer I delay, the more we risk Dark Gaia seeping back into the world.
I will take the Gaia Temples with me--out of Doctor Eggman's reach. I'll seal this last wound in the world to keep you all safe.
GREAT, BUT--!
I don't need a reward, Sonic.
The greatest reward was adventuring with YOU.


You and all your friends.
Tails! Rotor! Thank you for sharing your wisdom with me.
Antoine! Bunnie! Your love for each other showed me just what I was meant to protect in this world.
Sally! Your bond with Nicole...I see why you could so easily accept a spirit like me. Please tell her "goodbye" for me.
Cream! Cheese! Big! I wish I could be closer when I say farewell, my friends.
...M-MR. CHIP?
Amy! Knuckles! Thank you for inspiring me with your passion!
...Y-YOU TWO DID HEAR THAT, Y-YES?


YOU'RE THE BEST, CHIP! I'M GONNA MISS YOU, BUDDY!
And I'll never forget you.
I'll be here with you always.
A part of the earth you tread.


SONIC?
...IT ISN'T FAIR, SAL. WE GET TO KEEP GOING ON. HE DOESN'T. I DIDN'T... I COULDN'T...
YOU DID SAVE HIM, SONIC.
YOU SAVED US ALL! AND LIKE CHIP SAID--HE FINALLY GOT TO LIVE HIS LIFE, NOT JUST FULFILL HIS DESTINY!
HEH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.


THANKS.
BRING IT IN, GUYS. CHIP MAY BE SLEEPING, BUT WE'RE DEFINITELY STILL UP!
AND WE'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE BEST SUNRISE THE WORLD'S EVER SEEN!



THE *SHATTERED WORLD SAGA* HAS COME TO A CLOSE!
THANK YOU for joining us on this SONIC WORLD ADVENTURE!
But as one chapter ENDS, another BEGINS!
We'll see you NEXT TIME as we launch into a brand new epic!
AND UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON *SONIC UNIVERSE*, *SONIC SUPER DIGEST* AND *THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY*!

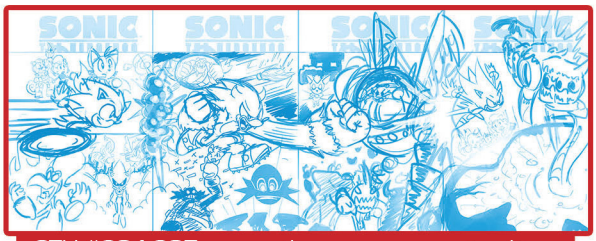
Letter from the EDITOR

Chaos Emerald-powered editorial commentary! Just add 50 rings!

And that's how you get it done!

Was that a wild ride or what? The planet-sized jigsaw puzzle has finally been completed. So many great artists have lent their talents to tell this grand story and it's so satisfying seeing the end result. Hats off to the creative team on a job well done and a saga well told.

Just in case you missed it, **Tracy Yardley** has made his grand return this issue, and will continue pencilling for our next storyline, **"Genesis of a Hero"**! This special story will honor the Blue Blur's 25-year history by turning back the clock to Sonic's earliest adventures and reveal some key moments in Sonic's history!



STH #284-287 connecting cover concept written by Ian Flynn and sketched by yours truly!

That's all for now. Stay classy, Sonic fans! See you next issue!

Vin 2016

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

Guess who's back, back again? Tracy's back! Tell a friend, because **"Genesis of a Hero"** begins in ***STH* #288**!

SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG

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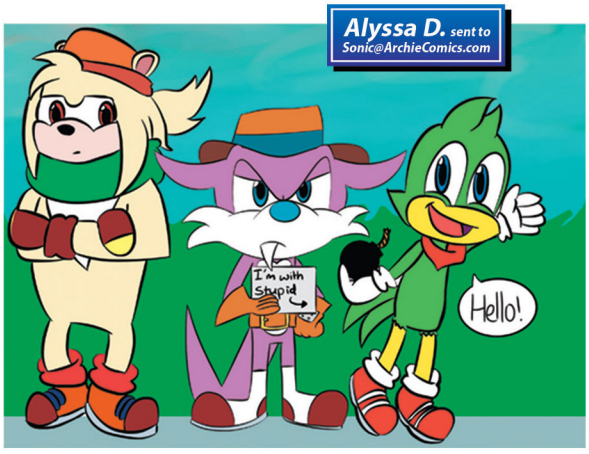

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OFF PANEL

BFF BUFFET OR Special Friends

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NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 288

GENESIS OF A HERO

PART ONE